

REMARKS

New claim 55 is supported in the original specification by Figure 3 (and the text describing Figure 3) and the text at, for example, page 2, line 18 to page 3, line 20.

The amendments to the specification correct minor clerical and grammatical issues in the original specification.

The rejection of claims 36, 37, 39 to 44 and 50 as being indefinite have been overcome by amending the claims to address each of the grounds for this rejection stated in the Office Action.

The rejection of claims 35 to 54 as being anticipated by Szamek (USP 945,143) has been overcome by amendment and is traversed.

Independent claim 35 has been amended to require a mixing space and independent claim 52 has been amended to require a mixing chamber. Similarly, new claim 55 requires a mixing space. The feeding device recited in claim 35 includes a feeding liquid duct, a mixing liquid duct within the feeding liquid duct, and a chemical feed duct within the mixing liquid duct. The mixing space is within the mixing liquid duct and is between the end of the mixing liquid duct and the outlet of the chemical feed duct. The mixing space is isolated from the feeding liquid flowing through the feeding liquid duct. The newly claimed mixing space is shown below in a portion of Figure 3 which has been annotated:

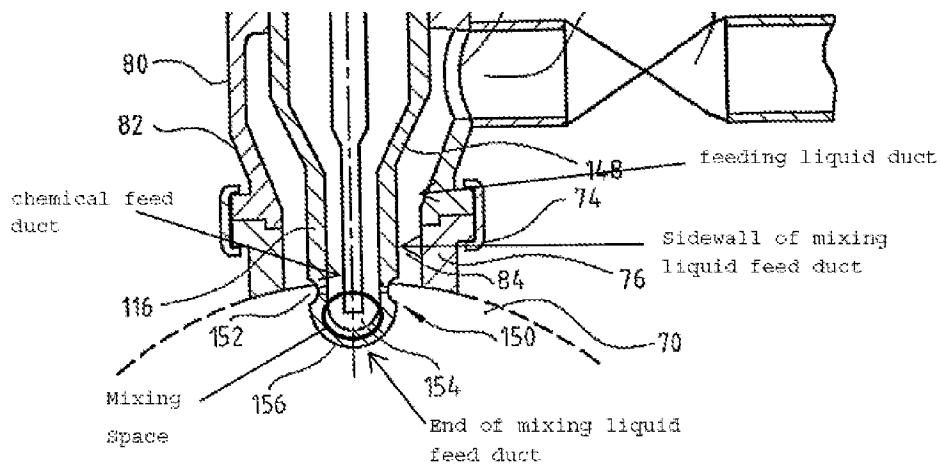
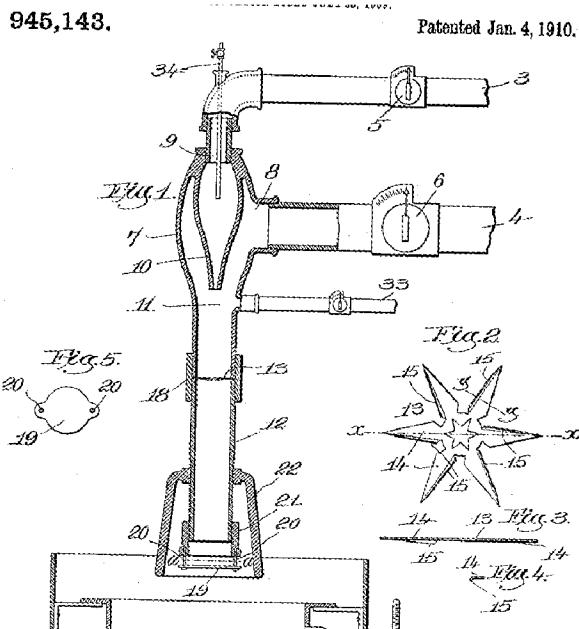


Fig. 3

Szamek discloses an apparatus for mixing water and molasses, which is shown below in Figure 1 of Szamek.



The upper part of the Szamek apparatus includes three concentric flow channels 34, 10, and 7. The innermost channel 34 introduces steam into a chamber (within channel 10) arranged in the intermediate channel 10, which delivers water to be mixed molasses 20) into the outermost channel 7.

in the outer flow channel 7. The water is discharged from the chamber (within 10) at such a high speed that molasses entering along the outermost channel 8 is drawn along by the water. Szamek discloses mixing the molasses with water only after the water flowing along the intermediate channel has drawn the molasses into the pipe downstream of the three concentric flow channels. Szamek, p. 2, lns. 58-74.

Claims 35 and 52, as amended, require the mixing liquid feed duct to have a sidewall and an end which forms a mixing space. This mixing space has an opening in the sidewall of the mixing liquid feed duct. Szamek does not have a closed end to the intermediate channel 10 because that channel is open at its end. Without a closed end, there can be no mixing chamber defined by the end. Similarly, the intermediate channel has no openings in the sidewall but rather has the open end of the channel to discharge water into the molasses. These claims as amended distinguish Szamek.

All claims are in good condition for allowance. If any small matter remains outstanding, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' attorney. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: /Jeffry H. Nelson/

Jeffry H. Nelson
Reg. No. 30,481

JHN:glf
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100